



**ARIZONA READY EDUCATION COUNCIL
GRADUATION/DROPOUT PREVENTION TASKFORCE**

August 20, 2013 @ 8:00 a.m.

**Executive Tower
1700 W. Washington
3rd Floor Conference Room
Phoenix, AZ 85007**

Meeting Notes

Members Present: Cathleen Barton, Patti Beltram, Rusty Bowers, Dan Brown, Pearl Esau (telephonic), Dr. Maria Harper-Marinick, Amanda McAdams, Diane McCarthy, Darcy Renfro (telephonic), Dr. Amy Schlessman (telephonic), Tom Tyree (telephonic), Chair Merl Waschler, and Dr. Jim Zaharis (telephonic)

Members Not Present: Mark Dobbins, Marv Lamer, Sam Leyvas, Dr. Kent Scribner, Carolyn Warner, and Vince Yanez

Staff Present: Rebecca Gau

Call to Order, Welcome, & Introductions

Darcy Renfro called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. provided welcoming remarks and introduced the purpose of this meeting, which was to discuss the taskforce's recommendations.

Quorum was met at 8:33a.m. with the arrival of Rusty Bowers and Patti Beltram. Darcy Renfro moved for the approval of the August 6, 2013 Task Force meeting minutes as presented. Diane McCarthy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: High School Goal Revision

Ms. Renfro introduced Rebecca Gau with the Governor's Office of Education Innovation (GOEI). Ms. Gau explained to the Members that based off a conversation had in the June Arizona Ready Education Council meeting, the decision was made to look into revising the High School Graduation goal for Arizona Ready. The Task Force members discussed what the current goal was and how to word the goal to reflect a lack of needed remediation at the college level. Members decided to add the phase "ensuring all graduates are college and career ready" to the goal would ensure that graduating high school students were able to seamlessly pass into college and career pathways. The members decided on the final goal language to be:

- Raise the high school graduation rate to 93% in 2020 from 73% in 2010 ensuring all graduates are college and career ready

Diane McCarthy moved for the approval of the revised goal language, Tom Tyree seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: Whitepaper Review

Ms. Gau reviewed the updated versions of the six recommendation whitepapers. Ms. Gau explained that the order of the papers was changed slightly but this would not be the final order. Ms. Gau reviewed each recommendation area and issues that need to be examined before the next legislative session. Task Force members discussed each area giving suggestions to Ms. Gau for some edits and additional areas to review. Members in particular asked to have a larger conversation at a later meeting regarding credit recovery in high school. Ms. Gau advise that she will add in the new edits and ideas as well as continue to work on an order for the whitepapers that makes sense and illustrates the proper pipelines.

Quorum was lost at 10:08 a.m. with the departure of Dan Brown, Diane McCarthy, Darcy Renfro, and Jim Zaharis

Discussion: Recommendation Package

Ms. Gau reviewed with the Task Force the graphic that staff built to present to the Council. The Task Force Members gave Ms. Gau feedback on the graphic and offered other ideas on ways to visually demonstrate the work that the Grad Rate Task Force has been doing without the need for the Council to review each individual whitepaper.

Council Comments

Chair Waschler announced the next meeting to be held August 20, 2013 and advised that the meeting time should be moved from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. due to the Rodel event that most Task Force members would be attending.

Call to the Public

There were no requests from the public to address the Task Force.

Adjourn

With no further business before the Taskforce, the meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m.